



EuroTravNet

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European Travel and Tropical Medicine
Network of the *International Society of
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*European Centre for Disease Prevention
and Control Collaborative Network for
Travel and Tropical Medicine*



EUROTRAVNET SCIENCE WATCH NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009

Scientific Advances –

Recently introduced *Aedes albopictus* in Corsica is competent to Chikungunya virus and in a lesser extent to dengue virus. Moutailler S, Barré H, Vazeille M, Failloux AB. *Trop Med Int Health*. 2009 Sep;14(9):1105-9.

Scientific Advances –

Pan-European Chikungunya surveillance: designing risk stratified surveillance zones. Tilston N, Skelly C, Weinstein P. *Int J Health Geogr*. 2009 Oct 31;8:61.

Scientific Advances –

Characterisation of MRSA from Malta and the description of a Maltese epidemic MRSA strain. Scicluna EA, Shore AC, Thürmer A, Ehricht R, Slickers P, Borg MA, Coleman DC, Monecke S. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2009 Nov 13. [Epub ahead of print]

Events –

3rd Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine (NECTM 2010)
Congress Center Hamburg (CCH) - 2010/05/26-29 – Hamburg, Germany

Scientific Advances – Recently introduced *Aedes albopictus* in Corsica is competent to Chikungunya virus and in a lesser extent to dengue virus.

Moutailler S, Barré H, Vazeille M, Failloux AB.

Trop Med Int Health. 2009 Sep;14(9):1105-9.

Description

Aedes albopictus has been established in Europe for some decades rendering temperate countries vulnerable to tropical diseases. The Italian chikungunya (CHIK) outbreak in the summer of 2007 demonstrated that indigenous transmission of CHIK was possible in Europe. To estimate the risk of a CHIK outbreak in Corsica, we assessed the vector competence of *A. albopictus* established in the island since 2006 towards a CHIK variant (E1-A226V). A dengue serotype 2 virus was also tested. Experimental infections showed that *A. albopictus* was highly competent to CHIK virus (disseminated infection rates ranging from 75% to 100%) and to a lesser extent, to dengue virus (12.5-68.8%). Moreover, *A. albopictus* ensured a high level of viral replication and was able to transmit the virus as early as 2 days after ingestion of infected blood with around 1,000 viral RNA available in salivary glands. The risk for a local transmission of CHIK is thus likely in Corsica, if other parameters determining the vector capacity of *A. albopictus* are suitable.

[Link to the article](#)

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/a248n9068547412w/>

ECDC comment: 2010-01-04

This reinforces the need for surveillance of importation of chikungunya and dengue in European areas where a competent vector is present.

Keywords : *Aedes albopictus* - Corsica – France – Dengue - Chikungunya

This paper has been selected by Dr Philippe GAUTRET (philippe.gautret@club-internet.fr) from Marseille, France.

Scientific Advances – Pan-European Chikungunya surveillance: designing risk stratified surveillance zones.

Tilston N, Skelly C, Weinstein P.

Int J Health Geogr. 2009 Oct 31;8:61.

Description

The first documented transmission of Chikungunya virus within Europe took place in Italy during the summer of 2007. Available evidence suggests that *Aedes albopictus* was the vector responsible. The index case was a visitor from India. This paper proposed pan-European surveillance zones for Chikungunya, based on the climatic conditions necessary for vector activity and viral transmission.

Link to the article

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2776014/?tool=pubmed>

ECDC comment: 2010-01-04

Pan-European surveillance provides the best hope for an early-warning of outbreaks, because national boundaries do not play a role in defining the risk of this new vector borne disease

Keywords : Chikungunya – Europe – Surveillance

This paper has been selected by Dr Philippe GAUTRET (philippe.gautret@club-internet.fr) from Marseille, France.

Scientific Advances – Characterisation of MRSA from Malta and the description of a Maltese epidemic MRSA strain.

Scicluna EA, Shore AC, Thürmer A, Ehricht R, Slickers P, Borg MA, Coleman DC, Monecke S.

Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis. 2009 Nov 13. [Epub ahead of print]

Description

Malta has one of the highest prevalence rates of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) in Europe. However, only limited typing data are currently available. In order to address this situation, 45 MRSA isolates from the Mater Dei Hospital in Msida, Malta, were characterised using DNA microarrays. The most common strain was ST22-MRSA-IV (UK-EMRSA-15, 30 isolates). Sporadic strains included ST36-MRSA-II (UK-EMRSA-16, two isolates), PVL-positive ST80-MRSA-IV (European Clone, one isolate), ST228-MRSA-I (Italian Clone/South German Epidemic Strain, one isolate) and ST239-MRSA-III (Vienna/Hungarian/Brazilian Epidemic Strain, one isolate). Ten MRSA isolates belonged to a clonal complex (CC) 5/ST149, spa type t002 strain. This strain harboured an SCCmec IV element (mecA, delta mecR, ugpQ, dcs, ccrA2 and ccrB2), as well as novel alleles of ccrA/B and the fusidic acid resistance element Q6GD50 (previously described in the sequenced strain MSSA476, BX571857.1:SAS0043). It also carried the gene for enterotoxin A (sea) and the egc enterotoxin locus, as well as (in nine out of ten isolates) genes encoding the toxic shock syndrome toxin (tst1) and enterotoxins C and L (sec, sel). While the presence of the other MRSA strains suggests foreign importation due to travel between Malta and other European countries, the CC5/t002 strain appears, so far, to be restricted to Malta.

Link to the article

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/a248n9068547412w/>

ECDC comment: 2009-10-30

This paper illustrates the circulation of MRSA strains within Europe via international travel, particularly in Southern Europe.

Keywords : Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus - Malta

This paper has been selected by Dr Philippe GAUTRET (philippe.gautret@club-internet.fr) from Marseille, France.

Events –

3rd Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine (NECTM 2010) Congress Center Hamburg (CCH) - 2010/05/26-29 – Hamburg, Germany

Date – 2010/05/26-29 – Hamburg, Germany

Description

The 3rd Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine, will be held on May 26-29, 2010 at the Conference Center in Hamburg, Germany. This conference will provide a unique opportunity to participate in hearing or presenting the latest information in the field of travel medicine. The target audience includes travel medicine practitioners, primary care physicians, infectious disease and tropical medicine specialists, researchers, nurses, pharmacists, and students involved in this field. The conference will also meet the needs of the travel media and industry including manufacturers of travel health-related products, drugs and vaccines. The programme will include all aspects of travel medicine including the “basics“ such as vaccinations, malaria prophylaxis and travellers diarrhoea – but we will also try to substantiate travel medicine advice on a sound scientific basis and on good epidemiological data. In addition to the scientific programme, the conference provides the opportunity to network with colleagues.

Link to the website: <http://www.nectm.com/index.html>

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Keywords : Travel Medicine -- Conference - Germany